

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS

1. A belt retraction mechanism including:

a biased spool having said belt wound thereon, said spool biased to retract
5 said belt;

a pawl and ratchet mechanism for preventing rotation of said spool in a
direction of retraction;

a biased cam member having an engagement surface, said cam member
biased to an engagement position wherein said engagement surface engages said belt
10 thereby preventing movement of said belt and moveable to an open position; and

an actuator moveable between an open setting and a closed setting, wherein
said actuator is manually operable to said open setting to release said pawl and
ratchet mechanism and furthermore cause said cam member to move from said
engagement position to said open position, thereby allowing said belt to be
15 moveable.

2. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein on actuation of
said actuator from said open setting to said closed setting said pawl and ratchet
mechanism reengages thereby preventing rotation of said spool.

3. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein on actuation
20 of said actuator from said open setting to said closed setting, said cam member
moves from said open position to said engagement position.

4. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in any one of the preceding claims,
wherein said actuator includes biasing means, said biasing means to bias said
actuator to said closed setting from said open setting on release of said actuator.

5. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said cam member is pivotable and includes a cam arm abutting said actuator, said cam arm located at an opposite end to said engagement surface, wherein on movement of said actuator to said open setting from said closed setting
5 said cam member is caused to rotate from an engagement position to an open position.
6. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in claim 5, wherein said engagement surface engages said belt by gripping said belt between said engagement surface and an inlet surface, said inlet surface forming part of an inlet for said seat belt retraction
10 mechanism into which said belt is retracted.
7. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in claim 6, wherein whilst said actuator is in said closed setting, retraction of said belt causes said cam member to rotate to reduce the distance between said engagement surface and said inlet surface thereby causing said belt to be gripped more tightly.
- 15 8. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said engagement surface includes a number of ridges or teeth to engage said belt.
- 20 9. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said actuator is retained in substantially linear slots to guide movement of said actuator when acting against said cam arm.
10. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said actuator further includes the pawl of said pawl and ratchet mechanism.
- 25 11. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in claim 10, wherein said actuator and said pawl are of unitary construction.

12. A belt retraction mechanism as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 11, wherein said actuator further includes a handle, said handle arranged to be operable from a location substantially opposite to said inlet of said belt retraction mechanism into which said belt is retracted.